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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,314	12/02/2003	Yuuichi Terada	02-106	2703
23400	7590	05/18/2004		
POSZ & BETHARDS, PLC 11250 ROGER BACON DRIVE SUITE 10 RESTON, VA 20190			EXAMINER LE, DANG D	
			ART UNIT 2834	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/725,314	TERADA ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Dang D Le	2834	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/8/04.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/2/03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 11-16 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper dated 4/8/04.
2. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-10 in Paper dated 4/8/04 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. (6,057,626).

Regarding claim 1, Tanaka et al. shows a commutator for an electric motor that includes a plurality of power supply brushes, which are slidably engaged with the commutator, the commutator comprising:

- A plurality of conductive commutator segments (27, Figure 10), which are arranged at generally equal angular intervals in a circumferential direction of the commutator, wherein the commutator segments are divided into a plurality

of groups (group of two in Figure 10), each of which includes two or more of the commutator segments;

- A plurality of generally planar short-circuiting parts (29), which are respectively provided to the groups of the commutator segments and are located radially inward of the commutator segments in such a manner that the short-circuiting parts are spaced one after the other in an axial direction of the commutator (Figure 2), wherein each short-circuiting part is seamlessly and integrally formed with and is electrically connected to at least a portion (29a) of each commutator segment of a corresponding one of the groups of the commutator segments, and at least one of the short-circuiting parts is located within an axial extent of at least one of the power supply brushes measured in the axial direction of the commutator (Figure 1); and
- A dielectric body (31), which securely holds each commutator segment and each short-circuiting part.

Regarding claims 2-4 and 8-10, it is noted that Tanaka et al. also shows all of the limitations of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. in view of Luca (3,535,776).

Regarding claims 5 and 6, Tanaka et al. shows all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for each commutator segment including a plurality of sub-elements, which are stacked in the axial direction of the commutator; and each sub-element is located in a corresponding imaginary plane, which is perpendicular to the axial direction of the commutator, and in which a corresponding one of the short-circuiting parts extends.

Luca shows each commutator segment including a plurality of sub-elements (11-16), which are stacked in the axial direction of the commutator for the purpose of reducing cost.

Since Tanaka et al. and Luca are all from the same field of endeavor; the purpose disclosed by one inventor would have been recognized in the pertinent art of the others.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to stack a plurality of sub-elements in the axial direction of the commutator as taught by Luca for the purpose discussed above.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the record of prior art does not show a commutator comprising an engaging surface of one of each adjacent two of the sub-elements of each commutator segment has one of an axial recess and an axial projection, wherein the axial projection is press fitted into the axial recess ; and an engaging surface of the other one of the adjacent two of the sub-elements, which is engaged with the engaging surface of the one of the adjacent two of the sub-elements, has the other one of the axial recess and the axial projection as shown in claim 7.

Information on How to Contact USPTO

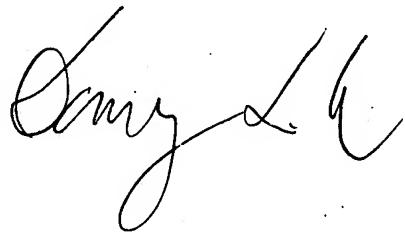
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dang D Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-2027. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on (571) 272-2044. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

5/13/04



DANG LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER